

EPA-731

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04/17/2012 02:18 PM

To Phil North

cc

bcc

Subject State of Alaska Challenges EPA

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Pebble Update

www.Pebblepartnership.com

Mining Benefits Alaska

Mining has long been a strong economic resource for the state of Alaska providing jobs and contributing to the Permanent Fund benefiting all Alaskans. The mining industry in Alaska includes exploration, mine development and mineral production.

Alaska's mines produce zinc, lead, gold, silver and coal. In 2011, Alaska's mining industry provided:

- \$620 million in total direct and indirect payroll
- \$17 million in local government revenue through property taxes and payments in lieu of taxes
- \$148 million in state government revenue through rents, royalties, fees and taxes.
- \$172 million in payments to Alaska Native corporations
- Significant year-round

State of Alaska Attorney General Expresses Strong Concern Toward EPA Watershed Assessment

The state of Alaska is on record asking the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to cease its work on the Bristol Bay Watershed Assessment, and refrain from exercising its Section 404c authority under the Clean Water Act (CWA) in conjunction with development of the proposed Pebble Deposit until a Section 404c permit application has been submitted.

In a letter written by Alaska Attorney General, Michael C. Geraghty, to Region X Administrator, Dennis McLerran, the state and its resource agencies - Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G), express increasing concern that neither the petition process by which the assessment has been initiated, nor EPA's process for developing

jobs for residents in more than 120 Alaska communities, half of which are found in rural Alaska where job opportunities are few

Link to the economic report from the Alaska Miner's Association. [Read more...](#)

a response are described in the CWA or its associated regulations.

Noting EPA's action as "well beyond any process or authority contemplated by the CWA," the state has further identified EPA's actions in this matter as being "unlawfully preemptive, premature, arbitrary, capricious and vague." The seven page letter and accompanying 19 pages of documentation cites conflict with multiple federal and state laws, including the Alaska Statehood Act. [Read more...](#)

Handy links:

[Alaska Resource Development Council](#)
[Alaska Miners Association](#)
[United States Geological Survey](#)
[Alaska Department of Natural Resources](#)
[Alaska Division of Mining, Land and Water](#)
[Alaska Department of Fish & Game](#)
[Truth About Pebble](#)
[Alaska Resource Education](#)
[Council of Alaska Producers](#)

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